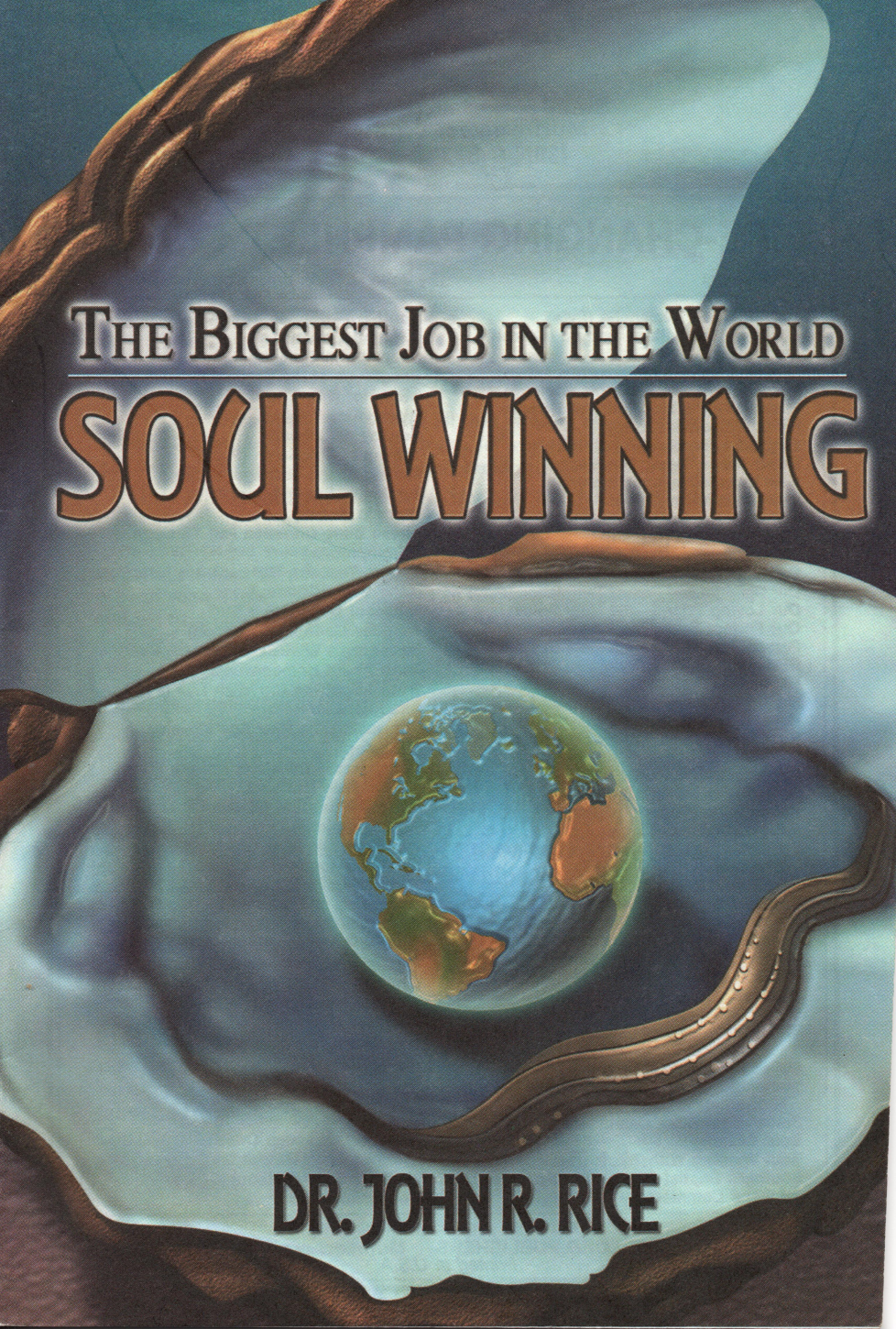

THE BIGGEST JOB IN THE WORLD
SOUL WINNING
DR. JOHN R. RICE

# *I. The Dearest Thing to God's Heart*

**"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."**

That is a wonderful Scripture, isn't it? Christ died for our sins.

In Romans, chapter 5, the Lord says in verses 6 to 8:

**"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

In John 3:16 Jesus said:

**"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

Oh, God loves this poor world of sinners!

The coming of Christ and His death on the cross, His resurrection, were so sinners might be saved. Yes, the dearest thing to the heart of God is the salvation of sinners.

When I said that once in THE SWORD OF THE LORD, a woman wrote me: "Brother Rice, I believe soul winning is all right and good, but I think the dearest thing to God is to honor Jesus Christ."

Beware of anybody who says soul winning is all right, BUT. . . . Do not "but" about what the Lord puts first.

I wrote to this good woman and said, "I will tell you how God honors Jesus. He let Him be born in a stable. He let Him grow up in poverty. He let Him be slandered and abused, as if He were an illegitimate child. Then at long last, when He was grown and had nowhere to lay His head and so had to sleep outside and go hungry, God let Jesus be betrayed by Judas and let the disciples leave Him. A traitor's kiss was placed on His cheek in Gethsemane. Then He was taken and tried and beaten and scourged and carried out to the place called Calvary and nailed

there and mocked for six hours while He died, and God turned His face away from Him."

Oh, there is no way to honor Jesus Christ if you do not honor Him as Saviour for sinners for that is what He came to earth to die for. And that is what is dearest to the heart of God.

## 1. The Old Testament Sacrifices Make This First

I say, soul winning is the one thing dearest to the heart of God. That is quite clear, first from all the pictures of sacrifices in the Old Testament. You cannot understand the Old Testament or the New if you are not interested in soul winning. Remember when Abel brought a sacrifice and Cain brought a sacrifice. I suppose Cain brought cabbages and carrots and wheat and corn and other things, and said, "Look! I have worked hard. This is my crop now. Here are my garden vegetables." But Abel brought a lamb from the flock. The Bible says, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice." That lamb pictured the coming Messiah, the Saviour. God looked down and was pleased. He smiled at Abel's offering because it represented the Saviour dying for sinners.

What about all the ceremonial laws picturing that? Down in Egypt God said, "Moses, have all the people take a male lamb of the first year." Why male? Because Jesus Christ is man, not woman. "Of the first year" and in His prime, because Jesus died when in the prime of young manhood, at about age thirty-three. He said, "Take this passover lamb and kill it and catch the blood"—because it pictured the precious blood of Jesus. "And take the blood and put it on the lintel above the door and the door facings on both sides and then roast that lamb with no water, because down in Hell there is no water, no alleviation for the pain that Hell brings. And let them eat it with bitter herbs, because it pictures how a sinner gets salvation through the sufferings of Jesus Christ."

Ah, that passover lamb! First Corinthians, chapter 5, tells us that "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." So, then, every one of the sacrifices pictures this: God wants to save sinners. It is the dearest thing to His heart. You cannot read the Old Testament without all the time coming to this thought, that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin, and God wants that pictured all the time.

Then when Jesus was to be crucified, all these sacrifices pictured that—the peace offerings, the sin offerings, the thank offerings pictured Christ our Saviour who was to be sacrificed for us.

## 2. Many Object Lessons and Types Show How Important It Is to God to Save Men

The object lessons in the Old Testament, too, were that God had in mind to save sinners. When Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden sinned, they felt guilty for the first time. Seeing themselves naked they were ashamed. They need not have been ashamed had they been sinless. They need not to have been ashamed to be in the presence of God were they as pure and holy as was God. But as sinners, now, they feel they cannot stand the gaze of a holy God, so they make themselves aprons of fig leaves. And that is a mighty frail covering. The leaves grow brittle and break. So in lovingkindness God killed innocent animals, took the skins and made coats for Adam and Eve. So the first blood ever shed pictured the blood of Jesus. The covering given to these two sinners in the Garden of Eden and outside pictured the robe of Christ's righteousness which is offered for sinners.

You cannot understand that unless you know that Jesus died to save sinners. That is the dearest thing to God's heart.

There are many object lessons like that. In the Tabernacle that golden candlestick or lampstand pictured Christ, the Light of the world. Oh, this dark, heathen world is in ruin, but Christ is the Light of the world.

And in that Tabernacle there was a table of shewbread on the righthand side, and twelve new loaves were put in every Sabbath day. What did that picture? To this starving world, starving in sin and in ruin, Jesus is the Bread of life, the Manna from Heaven. "I am the bread of life," Jesus said. The object lessons all pictured that God wants sinners saved.

Here are the children of Israel out in the wilderness. They come to a desert place and say, "We are about to starve for water. What will we do?" They complained to Moses. God said, "Moses, take a rod and gather all the people together. See that rocky cliff there? Smite that rock." When Moses obeyed, out poured a river of water, enough for three and a half million people and their cattle. That pictured Christ our Rock, the Water of life and salvation. Jesus said to the woman of Samaria in John 4, "I can give you water and you will have an artesian well inside you and need never thirst any more." Christ is the Water of life.

Again when they came near starving for water, they complained at God and Moses lost his temper. God said to Moses, "Do not hit the rock this time." This pictures Jesus and Jesus does not need to die on the cross but once to pay for sin. Hebrews 10:14 says, "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified." "So, Moses, speak to the rock now." One who

is under the blood is in the family of God and has a right to talk to God and have his daily provision met. But Moses angrily struck the rock, so he missed the chance to go into the land of Canaan. But the rock and the water from the rock pictured Christ, the smitten Rock. For our sakes He was smitten. From Him comes the Water of life for all poor, dying sinners. I am saying, the main thing in the mind of God was to get people saved.

You remember that again out in the wilderness they complained about the food and talked against God and Moses. So God sent fiery serpents among the people. What does that mean? That this poor race is sin-bitten, snake-bitten with the serpent of Hell. Old Satan, that old serpent the Devil, has involved us and has corrupted us and tainted us and infected us, and the whole race is a race of sinners. The fiery serpent pictures that.

The people said, "Moses, what will we do?" God said, "Moses, tell them to put a brass snake upon a pole so everybody can see it." The brass pictures sins judged now, but Christ, pictured by the snake on the pole, is there being judged for us on that cross. How would they get healed? By just looking at that serpent on the pole. Everyone who looked got well. And so, if you will just look to Jesus in your heart for forgiveness and mercy, you can have it now.

I am saying, the dearest thing to God is getting people saved.

### 3. Christ Came Into the World to Save Sinners

It is so pictured all through the Bible. It is the one great theme of the Scriptures. Christ came to save. The angel said, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. . .I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." A Saviour is born. Not a teacher—a Saviour. Not a ruler—a Saviour. Oh, He will be King one day, but now He is to come as a Saviour. Good news, then, for sinners need a Saviour. Jesus is born.

Joseph was troubled. "I couldn't sleep," He said, "what will I do, Lord? Mary is going to have a baby. Has she been led wrong?" God said to Joseph, "Do not fret about it. That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." He said, "When the child is born, thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins." Do not ever think of Jesus primarily as anything else but a Saviour. I know He is coming to reign. I know He is our Friend. I know He answers prayer. But, first of all, Jesus came to save.

That is the dearest thing to the heart of God.

That is what the Scriptures say in I Timothy 1:15: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Is that not what it is about?

Does not that show the main thing here? Paul said, "A good proverb has been going out among the people ever since the Lord Jesus was here. It is a good one. You can believe that." What is it, Paul? "How that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

He came to save sinners. Do not ever think Jesus came just to enlighten the world, or just to educate the world, or came just to establish civilization. Oh, many wonderful things Jesus did. But He came to save. That is illustrated in all the parables He told.

In the parable of the lost sheep, the shepherd leaves the ninety and nine in the wilderness and goes after that which was lost until he finds it. That pictures Jesus who is more concerned with getting one sinner saved than He is about the ordinary needs of people already saved and who need no repentance.

The main thing with God is getting people saved.

He told the story about the woman who had ten pieces of silver and she lost one piece. She said, "What will I do? What will my husband think about it? We have worked so hard for this, and I have saved it—now I have lost it."

So she lights a candle and sweeps the house and searches diligently till she finds it. Then she rejoices and calls her woman neighbors to rejoice with her. She had found the piece of silver. Jesus said, "That is the way I feel about lost sinners."

The dearest thing to the heart of God is to get people saved. You are not in tune with Him, you are not thinking like God thinks, you do not want what God wants, unless you want souls saved.

In Matthew, chapter 9, we have a story. Jesus called Matthew (Levi) to leave his work as a tax collector, publican, and to come and follow Him and be a preacher and one of His apostles. Levi said, "I am going to have the biggest feast you ever saw." I do not know whether it was a fish fry or chicken fry or steak fry, but he sure had a big dinner. He said, "I am going to gather all this dirty crowd I have been running with—the crooked tax collectors, the harlot women, all these drunks, those who are not accepted in good society—to my house for a big dinner. I am going to ask Jesus to talk to them," and he did. When people heard about it, they said, "Oh, there is Jesus. Why, Peter, your Master went and sat down at the same table and ate with sinners." When Jesus heard it, He said, "They ought to remember that God says, I will have mercy and not sacrifice," and "they that are whole do not need a doctor, a physician, but they that are sick, for the Son of man has come to save that which was lost."

What did Jesus come for? He came to save sinners. The dearest thing to the heart of God is to get people saved.

In Luke, chapter 19, we have the story of Zacchaeus. Jesus has

come down to Jerusalem for the last time—down the Jordan Valley to Jericho, now up from Jericho to Jerusalem. As He comes through Jericho a rich man, well-dressed, is there who said, "I want to see Him. But He has thousands of people around Him; so what will I do?" He ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree and said, "I will see Him when He comes out of Jericho."

Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, come down. I want to go home with you for dinner today." Old Zacchaeus slid down that tree and he said, "Jesus, I am going to pay back fourfold everyone I have cheated. And I will give half the money I have made to the poor." Jesus then said, "Salvation is come to this house."

Here is a man who turns from his sin to trust Jesus, and Jesus says, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

What did Jesus come for? To save sinners.

Oh, I do not like people writing commentaries about Jesus unless they get this point that He came as a Saviour, He came to save sinners. I do not like people teaching in seminaries on this doctrine or that or the other, unless they teach that the one thing dearest to the heart of God is to get people saved. It is a tragedy, crookedness, to entice young people to a theological seminary to learn all about the Bible—the types, the shadows, the theology, what the scholars have said about this, that and the other—and not get some of the fire and burden to win souls.

The one main thing dearest to the heart of God is soul winning. Unless you win souls, you cannot please Him.

Oh, then, let us vow this new year, 1976, to get in tune with God, to be sent like Jesus, to have the power of God on us like New Testament Christians had on them.

God wants everybody to be a soul winner. God bless you!

## *II. Every Christian a Soul Winner*

Today my theme is, "Every Christian Ought to Be a Soul Winner."

In Matthew 28, verses 18 to 20, Jesus is giving the Great Commission to the apostles. He has already risen from the dead. He will soon be going to Heaven. He spends forty days among

them and will preach again and again. He repeats the Great Commission. Listen to it in Matthew 28:18-20:

**"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."**

## 1. The Great Commission Is for Every Christian

Notice that Jesus is giving the Great Commission. It is not an incidental command. It is not a command to a few. It is a command to every Christian. He says to these apostles, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Let us say, "All authority is given unto Me. . . ." Was that only true about a few fishermen converts back there in the Bible, or is that true about you? What man, what woman would look in the face of Jesus and say, "I do not owe You anything. You cannot tell me what to do. You have no power or authority over me"? You are a hypocrite, wicked and in rebellion if you do not accept it that Jesus has the right to tell you what to do.

Jesus said, "All power [all authority] is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

As poor and weak as I am, how glad I am to say, "Lord Jesus, You have a right to tell me. I am Yours, to live or die." Every Christian ought to say that, because it is true. So He said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Now, let us see that Great Commission. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." The word "teach" here could be translated "disciple"—make disciples in all nations. Here is Peter, and the rest are looking on eagerly! Oh, He has told them this before, "Go make disciples in all nations." Get people saved. Then what? "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

When you get someone saved, get him committed, get him baptized, get him lined up publicly on the Lord's side. Then what? "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

You say, "Teach new converts the Bible?" No, He did not say that. He did not say teach them to *know*; He said teach them to *do*. "Teaching them to observe. . . ." They are to observe what? The same command He gave the twelve apostles. What is that? They are to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. They are to get people saved, get them baptized, and teach them the Word of God.

You see, this Great Commission was not only to the twelve, but it was also to everyone they won and baptized. What is that? That means the Great Commission is given to every Christian. So one who is saved ought to set out to win souls. If Peter was saved and he owes Jesus everything; well, if you have been saved, you owe Jesus everything, too.

But somebody says, "Brother Rice, you know I don't have the gifts and I don't have the natural ability." Well, people do not win souls by natural ability.

But somebody says, "I don't have the personality."

Personality does not win souls. I know some men, Christian men with wonderful personalities, charming nature, who do not win souls. The point is, winning souls is for everybody. Whatever your capacity, God can anoint that. The Holy Spirit can use that. God wants you to win souls.

So here is the Great Commission to every Christian. You should go get people saved, get them baptized, then teach them to observe all things Jesus taught the apostles to do. So we are to carry on the Great Commission, and we are to win souls.

## 2. All of Us Are Debtors Alike, a Debt to Pay

My, it seems strange that anyone would doubt about that. If Jesus kept me out of Hell, then don't I owe Him as much as anybody else does?

A man said to me, weeping, a month or two ago, "Oh, Brother Rice, I am not fit to be saved. I don't know why God saved me. I do not deserve it. I wasn't fit to be saved. I ought to go to Hell." I know. And if you have any sense, you know that you are bought and you didn't deserve salvation. Now, whatever you are, and have, and can do, and your heart's love and your hands and your feet and your witnessing and your testimony and your tears and your laughter and your pleading—all now belong to Jesus and ought to be used to get people saved! If the dearest thing on the heart of God is to get people saved, then if you love Him, how are you going to serve Him unless you do the thing He wants—that is, to get people saved?

Every Christian ought to win souls.

## 3. The Fact of Hell Makes Soul Winning a Duty

There are some things that stand out. First, the awful state of a lost sinner going to Hell. You know, it is terrible to be lost, to be lost forever. The day of opportunity is soon gone. People die, then they are set in their course—as the tree falleth so shall it lie. The man who dies unsaved stays unsaved. The awful fact of Hell is one you are going to have to face.

Out on the Bill Rice Ranch some time ago some of us rode along together. And Pete was there who is in charge of the horses. He breaks and trains the horses and supervises the trail rides, etc. A good preacher asked, "Pete, what are you going to do? Are you going to stay and work on the Ranch?" Pete said, "No, I have to preach. I love horses and I love the Ranch, but I have to preach."

"What do you mean, you have to preach?"

Pete answered, "Well, with all those people going to Hell, isn't that enough reason why anyone would want to preach or want to win souls?"

I know that God must tell you where, and how, whether you preach to big crowds or to one or two, or whether you go person to person; but it is still true that the obligation is there. If people are dying and going to Hell in eternal torment, away from God, it would be a foolish, wicked Christian who did not care about that. The awful matter of a lost sinner!

## 4. How Much Is a Soul Worth?

Jesus said the worth of a soul was so great. "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" How can you who claim to be good Christians not have a deep compassion of heart for people who lose everything, then burn in Hell and are tormented in flame, remembering and remembering? You could keep somebody from going there. And if you do not, then you sure are not a very good Christian.

Certainly it is obvious that every Christian ought to be a soul winner. So how much is a soul worth?

I read in the newspaper yesterday where a young man had cancer of the liver. The liver was removed and he had a liver transplant. It took lots of time and expense and much pain. After all that, they had to give him medicine and treat him and watch him, etc., with his going to the hospital again and again. Already it had cost $100,000. Now the young fellow is alive and he thinks he is going to finish college.

You say, "Spend $100,000 just to make it so a fellow could live?" Yes. Well, then, how much would you spend to keep a man out of Hell? I am just saying, the lost state of a sinner away from God is so terrible that anybody with any compassion, any of the milk of human kindness, has to have a concern and want sinners to be saved.

If you do not win souls, you are not a good Christian, because that is the one dearest thing to the heart of God.

The sacrifice of Christ ought to let you know how God feels about it. He sent His Son to die. And on the cross God turned His face away and let Jesus die. Hanging there in the blistering sun

for three hours and then a midnight darkness covered the earth and God turned His face away. Jesus said so we would understand it (He did not say it because He didn't understand it, but a hypothetical question for us), "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" He wanted you and me to notice it. God forsook Jesus that we might be forgiven and that our debt could be paid. I am just saying, a Christian who doesn't win souls misses the point of what Christ came for and the whole thing He should do.

In the Great Commission Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Do you mean God would like for everybody to hear the Gospel? Yes. Do you mean the Lord would be pleased if every poor sinner in the world should have somebody loving him and praying over him and weeping over him and begging him to be saved and showing him how? Yes, that is right. We are to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Dr. Jerry Falwell calls that saturation evangelism, knocking on every door, talking to every lost sinner and praying and begging God to help us as we go.

If you do not win souls, then you are not a good Christian. Every Christian ought to be a soul winner. Surely that is clear.

## 5. The Bible's Last Invitation Says We Should Say "Come"

In Revelation 22 the Lord said, "Now let us put another last invitation in the Bible before we close the canon of inspiration forever." So the Lord said, "Write it down, John":

**"The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."**

"Let him that heareth say, Come." Isn't that a logical, sensible thing? If I have heard the Gospel and I have been kept out of Hell, I should want others to be saved and kept out of Hell.

Let me ask you about those people in the Bible. When that woman in Samaria found out Jesus was the Messiah, oh, her wicked, sad heart turned to Him and trusted Him and she left her waterpot and ran to the town to say, "Come and see a Man who told me everything I ever did; isn't this the Messiah? He is bound to be!" Many were saved there and others came to see Jesus and were saved. Don't you think it was sensible for her to feel that way about it? Why should not a Christian want people saved?

There was a palsied man at Capernaum who lay there and murmured, "If I could get to Jesus! They tell me He is forgiving people, they tell me He is healing people, they tell me Jesus is so glad to forgive anybody. I wish I could see Him. But I can't walk!"

Four friends came and I guess one of them said, "I am going to see what I can do," and he talked among his neighbors and said, "We ought to carry this man to Jesus."

"Oh, he is big and heavy."

"I know, but we have to get him to Jesus."

So they brought him to Jesus. Jesus was preaching and the house was full, the yard was full, every window was full—they couldn't get in the house. So they climbed up on top and broke up the tile roofing and let the man down through that hole in the roof and interrupted the service. Jesus looked up and saw their faith. When He saw the glad faces looking down through that hole in the ceiling, He said to the sick man, "Because of their faith thy sins be forgiven thee."

Do you think it was sensible and right to carry that man, at great trouble and expense, to Jesus? That is the way God wants us to do about soul winning. Obviously the one main thing for God is soul winning. So the main duty of a Christian is to win souls. If you do not win souls, you are not a good Christian. How we ought to take it to heart!

## 6. Paul's Example

I follow the Apostle Paul. Paul said he went night and day with tears. He said, "I. . .have taught you publickly, and from house to house. . .night and day with tears" (Acts 20:20, 31). Was that right or not? Is that crazy—going around weeping?

Paul, you don't have a family? "No. No time for a family. I have to win souls. I am going to have to face Jesus and I want to please Him."

Do you mean, Paul, you just go? "Oh, yes, and often with nothing to eat, sleeping outside and getting into jail everywhere I go, and getting beaten with stones and shipwrecked in the sea. But I am doing everything I can to get somebody saved."

Now, was that sensible and right? Well, if it is right for Paul, it is right for me and for you. A Christian ought to win souls. If you don't win souls, you are not a good Christian.

Let us consider some of the things involved.

Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." What about the great command to get the Gospel to every creature? Who is going to do this? If you love Jesus enough you will. But everybody ought to love Him, not just if you are called to be an apostle, but, are you saved and do you love the Lord Jesus? "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). "If a man love me, he will keep my words," said Jesus in John 14:23.

I know what is wrong with the Christian who doesn't win souls. You have a cold heart.

You say, "I don't feel impressed. . . ."

You have the heart that doesn't let God impress you. You ought to be impressed by what He has already said in the Bible. You don't ever need to pray and ask God "if" about soul winning. You ask God "where" and "how," but you don't ask God "if." He has already told you what to do about that. And so a Christian ought to win souls. And you are not a good Christian if you don't.

Again Jesus said, "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit" (John 15:5). You say, the fruit of a Christian? Yes. How is that? You win souls because you love Him and abide in Him. The plain, simple truth is, you are not abiding in Jesus if you do not win souls. A Christian ought to win souls.

In Matthew 4:19, as Jesus calls Peter, Andrew and James and John to follow Him and be soul winners, He said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." In Mark 1:17 He said, "Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." If one doesn't win souls, he is not a fisher of men, so he is not following Jesus. One who does not win souls is not following Jesus.

Oh, but you say, "I love Him." Then why don't you obey Him by winning souls and loving those He loves and doing what He said?

## 7. Guilty of Soul Murder if We Do Not Warn

Ezekiel is held up as a pattern. The Lord said in Ezekiel 3:17-19,

**"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."**

If you didn't warn and plead and do your part to keep people from going to Hell, you have blood on your hands and will have to account to God for it. That is exactly what the Bible is saying here. Ah, how guilty is the one who doesn't win souls! And you will have a sad time when you meet Jesus.

Every Christian ought to win souls because that is the main thing that is going to make us happy in Heaven. They rejoice in Heaven every time a soul is saved. Jesus said, when He told the story of a man who brought a lost sheep and put it on his shoulders and carried it home and rejoiced and told his friends and neighbors, "Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep

which was lost." And in Luke 15:7 Jesus said, "Likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

Ah, joy in Heaven! Verse 10 says, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

In Heaven they are interested in that. So when we get to Heaven, do you know what the rejoicing is going to be about? The honor will be about winning souls. For Daniel 12:2, 3 says, "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament: and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

The one who wins souls and has the glad joy of getting people saved, you are going to be somebody up in Heaven. Up in Heaven it will not be the fellow who was a member of the Country Club or president of a bank, not the man who has a big executive position, not the woman who helped in the Parent-Teachers Association, but the fellow who won souls, those who turn many to righteousness—these are going to rise and shine in Heaven.

So every Christian ought to win souls.

## *III. How to Win Souls*

I'm preaching this month about soul winning, and I turn to Psalm 126:

**"When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."**

These six verses may have been written after the captivity. Many of the Psalms were written by David; one at least probably by Solomon; one at least by Moses; one at least by Ethan; and several by Asaph, some by other men whose names are not given.

He said, "Didn't we have a blessed time when God brought us

out of captivity and back from Babylon! Oh, our mouths were filled with laughter and our tongues with singing. And even heathen people could see it. Oh, we built again the walls of Jerusalem and the Temple. And the heathen people said, 'Hasn't God been good to the Jews!' " And the psalmist said, "Lord, do it again. We have gotten backslidden. So many turned to God before. O Lord, give us a revival. Stir our hearts again."

So the Lord said, "All right, here is the way to do it. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

## 1. Here Is a Guarantee You Can Succeed at Soul Winning

Now I want you to examine carefully that last verse. First of all, here is a guaranteed way to be a soul winner.

You say, "You can't win everybody." No, but you can always win somebody. You can't get everybody saved, but you can get somebody saved.

In the parable of the sower, you remember that Jesus said some seed fell by the wayside and the birds got it. And some seed fell on the stony ground and the ground was hard and it could not get a start, so it dried up and withered. And some fell among the thorns, so it sprang up, but because the thorns hindered, it did not bring fruit to perfection. If a fellow got saved, maybe he didn't quit his cigarettes. And he didn't have a family altar. And he didn't win souls. That is too bad. Saved but not fruitful.

But then Jesus said that "some seed fell on good ground, and brought forth some thirty, some sixty, some an hundredfold." Then you can always get somebody saved, this Scripture says. Beyond any doubt, He said, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing."

Thank God there is a way to win souls! And everybody can be a soul winner. God has guaranteed it. You can trust the Lord about this. I have proved it again and again. People who want to, can win souls.

## 2. The "Go" in Soul Winning

Now what are these points that the Lord said would guarantee to win souls?

First—if you go after them. You say, "Oh, I pray God will make me a soul winner." He won't unless you get to working at it. Suppose you sat at home and said, "O Lord, I want to catch a lot of fish." You won't catch them unless you go fishing. Well, then,

go fishing. It's all right to pray about it. It is all right to use the right bait and go to the right places, but if you don't work at it, you won't catch fish. The fellow who puts in the most hooks will catch more fish. The salesman who gets more prospects and talks to more prospects, will sell more goods. So it is about soul winning. The one who goes after more sinners and spends more hours at it and knocks on more doors and warns people and loves them more, will win more sinners.

So the first main requirement of a soul winner is to work at it. "He that goeth forth."

You say, "I don't know much Bible." Use what you have. Use John 3:16. You say, "But I don't have a pleasing personality." Well, go anyway. Do what you can. If a house is on fire and somebody comes and says, "Hurry, get out! The house is on fire!" you wouldn't mind if that man were ugly, would you? You wouldn't mind if his voice wasn't so artistic.

You see, the main thing is to work at it. He that goes forth can win souls.

The first thing in the Great Commission in Mark 16:15, is, "Go ye into all the world. . . ." Go, first. He didn't say preach first. A lot of people put all their time in preaching but never knock on the door of a sinner. A lot of people preach great sermons and then sit around in a library with their books and visit with the church people, and they don't ever get out after sinners. The only people who win souls are the people who work at soul winning.

Oh, then, go after them. I have found that there is always somebody you can win.

I think two months ago I got on a plane at Nashville going to Chicago. People filed in. A young woman in her twenties, I suppose, came by and stopped at my seat and said, "Aren't you Dr. John Rice?"

"Yes."

"I saw you once in Chattanooga. I have to talk to you."

When we got to Chicago, we went aside, and I talked to her. She wanted to be saved. She trusted the Lord and got that settled. She was so hungry.

There is always somebody you can win. In this case, because she had heard me and knew who I was and that I worked at soul winning, she felt free to talk to me about it.

I was in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and was invited to preach in a big Southern Baptist church five nights on soul winning. I preached on this subject, and a great many people pledged themselves to win souls. They set out in these five days to go get somebody saved, because God had guaranteed they could win somebody.

The next night when I preached on soul winning I said, "Lord, I want to get somebody here tonight." I hadn't won anybody that day. I tried, but I didn't find a lost sinner. I was put in the country in a motel. At the door of the church, after the pastor had closed the service with prayer, I stood while people filed out. If I didn't know, I asked each one if they were saved. Here came a young fellow who had sat on the second seat both nights. I found out later that is where he was every Sunday night, every Sunday morning, at every prayer meeting, every teacher's meeting. We were going to have five nights on soul winning: so here he is—as regular as a deacon—on the second seat from the front.

I said, "Hello, what's your name?"

He told me.

"How old are you?"

"I'm sixteen."

"Are you saved?"

"No, I'm not."

"Wouldn't you like to be saved?"

He broke down, put his head on my shoulder and wept.

I said, "I'll show you how." So I got out my New Testament and turned to the third chapter of John. Very soon I showed him we are all sinners. And I said, "A certain sinner in the Bible prayed, 'God be merciful to me a sinner,' and the Bible said he went home justified and saved. Can you pray that prayer honestly?"

Yes, he could.

And I said, "Say it then."

So he said, "God, be merciful to me a sinner."

I said, "Add to it now, 'And save me for Jesus' sake.' "

He said, "Yes, Lord, save me for Jesus' sake."

Then I went on to John 3:16, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." I said, "He wants you to trust Him. He has promised you everlasting life. You need a new heart. You must be born again, because you are born wrong. You know you are a sinner who needs forgiveness."

He knew that.

I said, "Jesus died for you so you don't have to perish, don't have to go to Hell. He died to save you. Are you ready to trust Him to do that now? He promised He would give you everlasting life if you would trust in Him."

Yes sir, he was ready.

And I said, "Can you shake hands on it? That means it is settled forever."

"Yes, sir." And he did. Then I showed him John 3:36, "He that

believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." I said, "Have you believed on Him? Have you depended on Him? Have you relied on Him?"

He said, "Yes, sir, I have."

"Well, what do you have then?"

"Jesus says I have everlasting life, doesn't He?"

I said, "That is what He says. Would you like to tell the pastor?"

We went down to the front to tell the pastor. "Brother Pastor, this boy's name is So-and-So."

The pastor said, "Oh, I know this fellow. He's a buddy to my boy. He's over at my house two or three times every week."

I said, "He has something to tell you."

He said, "Brother Pastor, I have been saved."

The pastor said, "Well, that's good." Tears filled the new converts eyes and his lips trembled as he said, "I couldn't wait any longer."

I said, "Would you like to tell the pastor's wife?"

She was over in a corner with a bunch of women around talking, so I said, "Mrs. Anderson, this boy's name is So-and-So. He has something to tell you."

She said, "Oh, he is one of the regulars in my Intermediate Training Union. I know him well." Then he told her he was saved.

Now, listen! Here was a young fellow who wanted to be saved. And forty people, perhaps, the night before had stood and promised they would set out that week to get somebody saved, and that lost boy was right there, and nobody had said a word to him. Every Sunday he came to Sunday school and training union. He sat in that one place—the second seat—every Sunday morning, every Sunday night, every Wednesday night prayer meeting. He was a buddy of the pastor's son. That pastor's son had already surrendered to be a preacher, yet nobody had won him—not the pastor, not the pastor's wife—not any of those others. And when he was saved he said, "I couldn't wait any longer!"

Nearly any one of those forty people who stood and said they were going to set out that week to prove it and win somebody could have won him. He wanted to be saved. The pastor could have won him. He said, "He is in my house two or three times a week." The pastor's son, called to preach already, could have won him, but he didn't.

Oh, the reason you don't win people is that you don't care enough to go after them. If you work at it, you can win somebody. You may stumble, but any honest effort to get somebody saved is better than a fellow who doesn't try at all.

So, "He that goeth forth." Going is the first thing it takes to win souls.

"What else?"

## 3. You Need a Broken Heart

"He that goeth forth and weepeth." You don't work at it because you don't care enough. That is the trouble. Do you really believe there is a Hell, and that some of your loved ones will be there mighty soon, if you don't get them saved? Then if there is a Hell of torment, and it is eternal and it is awful, then good Christians ought to work at soul winning. You are not much of a Christian if you don't care about that.

**Would you care if some friend you have met day by day,**
**Should never be told about Jesus?**
**Are you willing that they, in the judgment, should say,**
**"Nobody ever told me of Jesus"?**

Oh, I beg you, turn and trust Jesus! And if you have trusted Him, get somebody else to trust Him today.

Do you have a burdened heart for souls? Isn't it a strange thing that we cry about such little things? One woman went to church and found that another woman had a dress just like hers, so she just cried and cried! Isn't that strange? Another had a cow that died; it just broke the owner's heart. Why don't you cry about the most important thing—winning souls? People are going to Hell whom God loves, and He told us to warn them. Then we ought to have concern and compassion of heart.

Psalm 126:5 says, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." It is an awful thing for people to be lost; I wouldn't be surprised if some cry about it. We ought to cry. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed. . . ."

## 4. Use the Word of God

What else, then? "Bearing precious seed. . . ." Use the Word of God to get people saved. The Gospel is, ". . .how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

Now what does it take to get people saved? The precious Seed—the Word of the Gospel. You are going to have to show people they are sinners. And that is not hard to do. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Jesus said, "Ye must be born again" because we are born wrong. You don't go out and say, "You are a sinner," but you say, "We are all sinners; but Jesus died for us, and I have trusted Him."

The truth is, that is one of the great parts of this gospel seed.

People are sinners. But the next part is that "the wages of sin is death." If you are lost and don't get something done about it, you will go to Hell. And it is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of an angry God. "He that believeth not the Son is condemned already."

But here is good news.

The third thing is, Christ died to save us. The debt is paid. You don't have to go to Hell. You don't have to pay your debt—Jesus paid it for you. He died in my place. He died for our sins. And those who put their trust in Him can have salvation.

Now how do I get that? You trust Him. When you deposit money in the bank, you trust the bank and deposit the money. If you are sick and about to die, you call the doctor and turn your case over to him. That is trust in the doctor.

So why don't you say, "Jesus said He loved me, and I believe it. Jesus said He died for me and wants to save me, and I believe it. He said if I would come to Him, He would take me, forgive me, and give me everlasting life, and I'm going to do it, Lord. I will take You up on that. I am turning my case over to You. If You want me, You can have me right now. I give You my heart and trust You to save me"? Oh, the blessed Seed!

You can get people saved. Why don't you work at that today? I would get John, chapter 3, in my heart. People need to be born again. And God loves them. They have sinned and they are about to be lost forever. They are about to go to Hell. But they can be saved if they will turn to Jesus and trust in Him. Couldn't you tell people that, and show people that from John 3?

God wants you to show people how to get saved. Look again at Psalm 126, verses 5 and 6: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." You see, God guaranteed you could win somebody. You can't win everybody. If somebody shuts a door in your face, that is not nearly as bad as getting crucified, like Jesus; or getting stoned to death, like Stephen; or being beheaded, like Paul the apostle.

Christians ought to have such a concern about this, and do their best to win others. You ought to love people and be concerned about people and tell them how to be saved. You can get somebody saved.

And be sure to press for a decision. A man training salesmen said to them one day, "Get their name on the dotted line. Just telling them about how good your insurance is, or how nice this car is, won't do it. Get their name on the dotted line"—by which he meant, press to a decision. Say to that unsaved one, "Will you, here and now, turn to Jesus? Let us pray right now and ask Him to forgive you and save you." Get people to decide. That is what God wants, and that is what all of us ought to want.

Is somebody in your family unsaved? Then why not tell them today, "I'm praying for you. I want you saved"? And if you are a poor sinner, will you say, "I am glad God loved me; I am glad Jesus died for me; I am going to trust Him to save me now"?

## *IV. The Sevenfold Sin of Not Winning Souls*

I am preaching this month in each of the services on soul winning. Today I want to talk about "The Sevenfold Sin of Those Who Do Not Win Souls." I said the sin of not winning souls—the sevenfold sin. Every Christian who does not win souls is living in sin. You are not a good Christian. You are not obeying the Lord's command. Christians ought to win souls. You say, "That is a pretty serious charge." Yes, and I will prove it to you.

### 1. The Sin of Disobedience to Christ

Proverbs 11:30 says, "He that winneth souls is wise." Now look at the Great Commission which Jesus gave in Matthew 28:18-20:

**"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations** [or make disciples of all nations], **baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."**

Now here the Great Commission is to go get people saved. "Peter, go get people saved." All right, Jesus, and what will I do then? "Then get them baptized, get them lined up, get them committed, get them branded." All right, Jesus, then what? "Then teach them to do just what I told you to do, not just teach them the Bible, but teach them to observe, to do the things I commanded you."

Well, that means every saved person ought to be baptized, and every person saved and baptized ought to be taught to go and get people saved and get them baptized. We have the same commission Jesus gave the apostles. Everybody who gets saved and inherits the Great Commission, ought to go and get people saved.

That is the way Andrew did in John, chapter 1. He was converted and spent the night with Jesus; then the first thing he did the next day was to find his brother Simon and say, "We have found the Messiah, which is being interpreted, the Christ" (vs. 41). And he brought him to Jesus.

Ah, and that is the way with that woman of Samaria in John 4. When she was converted she left her waterpot and said, "I have to run. I will come back for that waterpot." So she ran to town and told the men, "Come! There is a man out here who told me everything I ever did, and He is the Messiah, I tell you!" As soon as she was converted, she went to get others. She was so in earnest that some people were convinced and trusted the Saviour, then others came out to hear Jesus. He stayed there two days and won many, many people. But that woman, who had not been saved ten minutes, ran to tell the good news to others.

You see, every Christian ought to win souls. That is the Great Commission. That is what the Lord said again in Revelation 22:17: "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come." Everybody who has heard it is commanded to tell it. And if you don't, you are not an obedient Christian.

We call it the Great Commission; by that we mean it is the main command Jesus gave for this whole age. The Great Commission is repeated five times after Jesus rose from the dead—in Matthew 28:18-20, in Mark 16:15, in Luke 24:46-49; and in John 20:21, 22 Jesus repeated it again. In Acts 1:8 He said, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." So evidently one who does not do what Jesus says about this is missing the main command. Yes, this is the main command Jesus left us, and if you don't do that, you are not an obedient Christian. That is sin number one.

## 2. The Sin of Lack of Love for Christ

In John 14:15 Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Now that is simple and sensible. He goes a little further and says in verse 21, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." Then He says in verse 23, "If a man love me, he will keep my words." You see, whether you obey the Lord or not is an evidence of your love. Your temperature as a Christian, your love and burden, are measured by how well you obey the Lord. And if you are going to obey Him, you do it on the main thing.

Oh, the thing dearest the heart of Jesus is to get people saved. He died to get people saved. First Timothy 1:15 says, "This is a

faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." So if you love Jesus, He said you will keep His commandments. The truth, then, is that those who do not win souls, do not win souls because they do not love the Lord enough.

The message was given to John in Revelation about the church at Ephesus. God said, "I know thy works, but I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love." Oh, so many Christians have lost that first love, that honeymoon love. When you are first saved, you are so anxious for everybody else to get saved. That first love!

People who don't win souls don't love the Lord enough to do what He said. Oh, but you say, "I read the Bible and study the deeper life." Yes, I know. Or you say, "Oh, I go to church and tithe and pray," but you wouldn't touch a sinner with a ten-foot pole. I know. Yes, you are a nice Pharisee, but if you don't win souls, you don't love Jesus.

## 3. The Sin of Not Following Christ

A lack of love for Jesus is so sad.

Wait a minute! Here is another sin of Christians who do not win souls. In Matthew 4:19 Jesus said to Peter, James, John and Andrew, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." If you follow Jesus, He will make you into a fisher for men or a soul winner. He said it again in Mark 1:17, "Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." You and I need to love sinners like He does. If we did, we would want what He wants. And you would be a soul winner. Everybody who really follows Jesus turns out to be a soul winner.

You may say, "I don't have the gift for that." But if you love Him, you would want to do what He said, wouldn't you? And if you are going to follow Him, He said, "I will make you fishers of men." By following Jesus, you get to love things like He does, and want what He wants.

When I was a young college student I went with my pastor—a country pastor, an earnest soul winner—to a number of revivals in the summer. He invited me to be with him in seven weeks of revival services in seven country and small-town churches. I went. It wasn't long until he was sending me on ahead to start the revival. I didn't think I was called to preach. I didn't go out there to preach; I went to lead the singing. But it was not long until he pushed me out. I tried to argue, "I'm not the preacher."

He would say, "Then tell them you are not a preacher."

I said, "But I don't have any sermons."

He said, "You are an intercollegiate debater. You have a

scholarship in oratory, and are out raising money, speaking for the Red Cross and all that, and you can't preach! That's a funny way to treat Jesus."

And—bless his heart—he outtalked me! You couldn't run long with him without being a preacher. So you can't run with Jesus without learning to win souls. That is the dearest thing to the heart of God.

So sin number three of those who do not win souls is that of not following Jesus. If you follow Jesus, you will be a soul winner. He will make you a fisher of men.

## 4. The Sin of Not Abiding in Christ

Sin number four. In John 15:1 Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." In verse 5, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." One who abides in Jesus will bring forth much fruit. In verse 16, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." Am I talking about the fruits of the Spirit? I am not talking about those graces, those things that the sweet Spirit of God does to a Christian's character—the fruits of the Spirit. No, I am talking about the fruit of a Christian. The fruit of a Christian is another Christian. The fruit of a woman's womb is a baby. The fruit of an apple tree is an apple. The fruit of a melon vine is a melon. And the fruit of a Christian is another Christian. And "your fruit should remain."

What is He saying? If you abide in Christ, you will bring forth fruit.

We have a grape vine on our little farm and when I pass by I don't hear groaning and straining. It just bears grapes naturally. Now if it were all shut off, one branch from the original and withered away and could not bear fruit, then that is a sign it is not abiding.

It just comes natural that if you are abiding in Christ, you love people like He loves them; you want people saved as He wants them saved; and you know in reality that Heaven and Hell and eternity are so real. If you abide in Him, you are going to be a soul winner. Abiding in Christ means you will bring forth much fruit.

Then if you don't win souls, you are not abiding in Christ. "Oh, I just believe in the deeper life and love the Bible." All the Pharisees do, too. No; if you don't win souls, you are not in the deeper life and you do not abide in Christ.

## 5. Those Who Do Not Win Souls Are Guilty of Dishonesty in a Sacred Trust

Paul said in Romans 1:14, 15, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

"I am a debtor." In that Great Commission given in Matthew 28:18, Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, "All power [all authority] is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Do you lift your brazen face to say to God, "You have no right to boss me around. You can't tell me what to do"? What a foolish, wicked, rebellious thing to think or say! A Christian has to say, "Oh, I am in debt forever. I belong to Him. He has the right to tell me what to do."

So, if you are going to obey Him, you will have to be forever in His debt.

Now honest people try to pay their debts. And if you don't win souls, then you are guilty of dishonesty in a sacred trust.

In the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 Jesus said a man with lots of money went away and left his money in the hands of servants. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; and to another, one. When he got back, the fellow with five talents said, "I have five more. I worked hard." The master said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. . . ."

Another fellow said, "You gave me two, and I have worked hard. I have two more. Here are four. The master said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. . . ."

And the other fellow said, "Well, I know you are a hard master, so I didn't work at this. I just buried mine in a napkin. Here is your old money; you can have it." And the master said to him, "Thou wicked and slothful servant—wicked because you are crooked—why didn't you take my money to the bank and I would then have had some interest on my money if you didn't want to work at it?"

Don't you think God has a right to some interest on all He has invested in you? Don't you think when a fellow lives in a house he ought to pay rent? That if a fellow uses borrowed money, he ought to pay interest? And if a man is kept out of Hell because of Jesus, don't you think He ought to get some fruit from it?

Oh, the land with barren ground and no fruit! Jesus cursed only one thing, a fig tree that had no figs. How God grieves over fruitless Christians who don't win souls! It is dishonest to have all the mercies of God, then give God no fruit, give Him no interest on His money, give Him no pay back for His loving care.

I had a letter once from dear Dr. H. A. Ironside, along with a sermon for THE SWORD. He also enclosed a little circular. He was in Dallas, Texas, and I was in Wheaton, Illinois. He is now in Heaven. The circular read, "Hear Dr. H. A. Ironside, Pastor of Moody Church, Chicago, This Week! On Monday night, at First Afro-Methodist Church. On Tuesday night, at St. James Baptist Church." And so it went. These were black churches. I had preached in all of them. They had sent their choirs to sing in my church, the Galilean Baptist Church, when I lived in Dallas. And Dr. Ironside wrote across that little handbill: **"I'm just trying to pay my debt to my colored brethren."**

Oh, you are in debt, too, and you ought to pay it. You can't pay it back unless you work to get people saved for whom Christ died. Your money is a little thing to God. All the silver and the gold in the world are His, and the cattle on a thousand hills. But loving heart-concern and burden for souls and tears over sinners, and pleading conversations and warning—that part God wants you to pay Him back.

## 6. Sin of Spiritual Manslaughter

If you don't win souls, you are guilty of soul murder. Ezekiel 3:17-19 says, "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." If you don't warn people, then, you are going to be responsible to God.

Look at your hands. Is the blood of loved ones on them? You are going to have to give an account to God for the damnation of souls you do not warn, that God put near you. That is what He said—"I have made thee a watchman. . .his blood will I require at thine hand." It is an awful thing to be guilty of soul murder before God.

Do you remember the story some years ago in Harlem, New York, of a woman, Miss Kitty Genovese, who came back from work at one o'clock in the morning. There a man met her at the steps of her apartment and stabbed her. She argued and argued, she begged, but he stabbed her and left her lying there. He came back a half hour later and finished the job. At least forty different people, some of them on their fire escapes, some with open windows, all sat out, looked and listened, but nobody wanted to get involved, and they let that woman die. They will have to

answer to God. They are partly guilty of that murder.

But no more guilty than you and I are if we let loved ones unsaved go unwarned. God says, "His blood will I require at thine hand." That is an awful sin.

## 7. The Folly of a Shortsighted Fool

Proverbs 11:30 says, "He that winneth souls is wise." And Daniel 12:2, 3 says, "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

Oh, rise and shine in Heaven, you soul winners! How precious you are to God! O Christians, let us win souls for the eternal reward and to please the Saviour. If you don't win souls, you are not a good Christian.

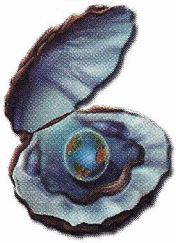
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